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PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Report on progress made at the national, regional and international levels in accomplishing the objectives contained in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 49/214

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 13 of its resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly recommends, inter alia, that the Secretary-General establish the Voluntary Fund for the Decade and include that Fund in the annual Pledging Conference for Development Activities; request United Nations representatives in countries where there are indigenous people to promote their participation in the planning and implementation of projects affecting them; urge United Nations conferences convened during the Decade to facilitate the input of the views of indigenous people; ensure that information about the programme of activities for the Decade are disseminated in all countries; and report on progress made to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The present report contains a summary of the comments received from Governments, United Nations organizations and indigenous and non-governmental organizations, as well as other relevant information. The proposed final programme of action for the Decade also requested by the General Assembly in the above-mentioned resolution is contained in document A/50/511.

II. COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

2. The following Governments submitted information about their activities for the Decade: Bolivia, Finland, Mexico.

3. The Bolivian Government reported on the results of a meeting of representatives of State, private and international organizations to compile a list of activities for the Decade. The list included a series of seminars, presentations, publications and educational reform plans to be undertaken in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and several regional indigenous and governmental organizations. The Under-Secretary for Ethnic Affairs proposed a series of events including a campaign on indigenous land issues, a presentation on programmes for highly vulnerable indigenous peoples, and an indigenous musical festival commemorating significant events, such as the translation of the Constitution into Aymara, Quechua and Guaraní.

4. In August 1995, the Bolivian Government established the National Committee for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People to be chaired by the Vice-President of the Republic and consisting of representatives of several ministries and indigenous organizations.

5. The Government of Finland considers the elaboration and adoption of a declaration on indigenous peoples to be an important step in the evolution of international human rights standards. Finland maintains its position, as one of the Governments having an indigenous people (the Sami) within its territory, in support of the adoption of the declaration. The Government of Finland is of the opinion that all efforts should be made to adopt the declaration during the first half of the Decade.

6. In this connection, the Government of Finland provided information about new domestic developments in the area of legal protection for the Sami people in Finland. On 1 August 1995, a new chapter II of the Finnish Constitution Act entered into force. According to section 14, paragraph 3, of the Act, the Sami, as an indigenous people, shall have the right to maintain and develop their own language and culture. The provision also constitutionally secures the right of the Sami to use the Sami language in dealings with the authorities.

7. Another constitutional amendment protecting the cultural autonomy of the Sami as an indigenous people, with respect to their language and culture, has also been adopted by Parliament and ratified by the President of the Republic. It will enter into force on 1 January 1996. The operation of the Sami Parliament will be regulated by an Act of Parliament.

8. The Mexican Government reported on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In 1991, Mexico ratified Convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples of the International Labour Organization. In 1992, in accordance with the Convention, Congress approved an addendum to article 4 of the Constitution which recognized the pluricultural composition of the country and, in 1991, an addition was made to article 27 of the Constitution to protect the lands of indigenous groups.

9. The Instituto Nacional Indigenista (INI) has taken a number of measures to improve the administration of justice for indigenous people and supported 102 projects presented by civil organizations. The projects have as a central focus

human rights, legal services and the dissemination of information about the rights of indigenous people, in particular those of indigenous women.

10. INI has published a series of documents for the public demonstrating the richness of indigenous culture. Titles in the collection include "La voz de los niños indígenas de México" and "Pueblos Indígenas de México". INI has also provided indigenous organizations with video equipment through the project, "Transferencia de medios a los pueblos indígenas". To date, there are 37 projects under way, some with human rights organizations, such as the Comité de Defensa de la Libertad Indígena (Chiapas) and the Unión Popular Campesina and the Servicios del Pueblo Mixe (Oaxaca).

III. COMMENTS FROM UNITED NATIONS BODIES

11. The following United Nations bodies provided information about the activities related to the Decade: Department of Public Information, United Nations Development Programme (including UNDP offices in Costa Rica, Thailand and Venezuela), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations University.

12. The Department of Public Information is the main United Nations body responsible for promoting understanding of the Organization's work including in the areas of human rights and indigenous people. In so doing, the Department launches multi-media information programmes focusing on specific issues. Print material produced for use in these programmes includes such items as brochures, backgrounders, fact sheets, features or information kits, which are distributed in a variety of languages through the network of 67 United Nations information centres (UNICs) and services (UNIS). Information on the role of the Organization and its activities is also disseminated through radio and television programmes produced regularly by the Department in a variety of languages. These are broadcast by national radio and television stations around the world.

13. For the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the Department of Public Information is planning a number of activities to raise public awareness of the concerns and rights of indigenous people and to mobilize greater support for action to improve the situation of indigenous people around the world. The impact of these activities will be further enhanced by their being held in conjunction with the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education. The activities of the Department of Public Information, developed within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, will be directed to the media, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government officials, the United Nations system, indigenous organizations, educational groups and the general public.

14. On 9 December 1994, the Department published and disseminated a backgrounder on the Decade's objectives (DPI/1608) in English, French and Spanish which was made available to NGOs, the general public and the media at a ceremony launching the Decade held during the United Nations General Assembly. The backgrounder was also distributed world wide to media, NGOs and others through the United Nations information centres and services and electronically

through the Internet. Several "UN in Action" television programmes produced by the Department in English for "CNN World Report" (and in other languages for wider distribution) featured issues relating to indigenous people. The CNN programmes are broadcast in more than 120 countries. For instance, a programme entitled "UNHCR helps indigenous Guatemalans return home" was produced in March 1995. Radio documentaries on indigenous people will be produced as well throughout the Decade, as part of the regular 15-minute weekly radio series that the Department produces in 15 languages.

15. In advance of the Fourth World Conference on Women which took place this year in Beijing, a backgrounder entitled "Indigenous Women: Taking Control of Their Destiny" (DPI/1717) was published in English, French and Spanish. Inter-agency collaboration is important in strengthening the strategies and advancing the objectives of the Decade. At United Nations Headquarters, a project to celebrate the first International Day for Indigenous People is being planned by the NGO Committee for the Decade in collaboration with the New York Liaison Office of the Centre for Human Rights and DPI. On this occasion, DPI will help publicize the event and contact the press. United Nations information centres and services are being encouraged to undertake special activities to observe this Day, and the Department will ensure wide distribution to all media of the Secretary-General's message.

16. For the next biennium (1996-1997), a series of backgrounders, features and fact sheets on indigenous concerns will be published taking into consideration ongoing United Nations events such as the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996), the Second Youth Forum of the United Nations System (1996), the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), and the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003). Since all these observances will address issues closely related to human rights, information programmes will also stress this link. One of the major objectives of the Decade is education in indigenous and non-indigenous societies. Dissemination of such information concerning the situation, cultures, rights and aspirations of indigenous people will help raise awareness of problems encountered by indigenous communities, such as poverty and illiteracy, as well as their need for development and the realization of their human rights. Possible topics for these new backgrounders include: indigenous youth and their concerns; human rights and indigenous people; indigenous people and education; social and economic conditions of indigenous people.

17. The rights of indigenous people could also be promoted through dissemination, in the six official languages, of the declaration on the rights of indigenous people after its adoption by the General Assembly. In order to reach and inform a greater number of indigenous people about their rights, United Nations information centres will be asked to arrange for the translation of the declaration into indigenous local languages, where possible. They will also be asked, in the context of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, to contact secondary schools and colleges in their areas in an effort to include the teaching of indigenous human rights issues in school curricula. In observance of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, a poster will be published in the six official languages of the United Nations in 1996.

18. A backgrounder presenting some of the successful projects funded by the Voluntary Fund for the Decade and their impact on the indigenous communities could illustrate how the United Nations system is making a difference in the lives of indigenous people. Collaboration with outside partners is important in publicizing the Decade and its objectives. A video to promote the Decade is being prepared by Television Trust for the Environment (TVE). At the request of the Centre for Human Rights, DPI reviewed its contents and provided technical advice.

19. During the Decade, United Nations information centres and services will be asked to undertake special activities to heighten public awareness of the issues that concern indigenous people. Apart from disseminating relevant information materials and translating them into local languages, United Nations information centres and services will launch promotional activities in collaboration with national authorities and non-governmental organizations. Such activities could consist of national painting or photography contests on indigenous people, exhibits, organization of press conferences, briefings or round tables, and inclusion of relevant stories in UNIC newsletters and press releases. Information centres can cooperate with national authorities for issuance of stamps to commemorate the Decade. Centre directors will also give interviews to the local media and participate in seminars, panels and lectures for educational and other institutions.

20. During the Decade, DPI will continue to provide press, radio and television coverage of the Commission on Human Rights and to give special attention to indigenous peoples' issues in its ongoing coverage and promotional activities. The proclamation of three decades closely related to human rights issues provides a unique opportunity for the international community to spread the human rights message world wide in close cooperation with various sectors and actors of society.

21. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is undertaking a number of projects to implement the Decade. The Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean has proposed the establishment of a special unit in UNDP called "Biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples Development Facility". The Facility would finance projects stressing sustainable economic development, including biodiversity preservation and the strengthening of indigenous communities, by addressing their social and economic exclusion, strengthening all human rights, preserving traditional knowledge and opening up sustainable economic development and "green" trade opportunities.

22. This indigenous initiative by UNDP began in August 1994 and since then, nine meetings have been organized in Latin America (Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Chile, Guyana, Costa Rica and Belize) to consult with indigenous people and identify needs and projects. Part of the initiative is to encourage contacts, including economic ones, between indigenous people of the North and the South. The initiative has limited resources at the moment, but hopes to broaden its financial base through intensive fund-raising with Governments as well as with the Global Environment Facility. Although the focus up to now has been on the Americas, the UNDP indigenous initiative wishes to expand to other parts of the world.

23. The regional office in Venezuela transmitted information from the Director of Indigenous Issues of the Ministry of Education regarding the details of the agenda of the Latin American Indigenous Meeting that will take place in the city of Bolivar on 9 August 1995 to celebrate the International Day of Indigenous People. Also included was the draft description of an American festival of indigenous music, songs and dances that the American Indigenous Parliament intends to organize in Caracas in October 1995.

24. The regional office of UNDP in Costa Rica sent a report on the situation of indigenous peoples in that country.

25. The office in Thailand described two projects concerning indigenous people in the region to be developed in the following countries: Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. The first one is entitled "Indo-China Sub-Regional Programme: Development of Highland Peoples Through Participatory Capacity Building" (RAS/93/103). The three-year programme, from 1994-1997, addresses the issues of poverty alleviation and grass-roots participation of highland peoples in the Indo-China subregion through participatory capacity-building enabling the local communities and Member States to better utilize resources and manage their development efforts. The programme emphasizes participation of the target communities. The issue of "ethnicity" is treated with sensitivity. UNDP recognizes ongoing disintegration of ethnicity and is willing to tackle the issue through mutual learning and sharing of skills and knowledge leading to the overall integration of minority groups into the socio-economy of the nation. The second project is entitled "Reducing Drug Use by Capacity-Building and Education Within the Highlands of the Greater Mekong Region". The programme aims for close interaction with the first project. The drug problem among highland communities indicates not only the difficulties of highland peoples in adjusting to modernization and the changing world but also is an alarming sign of disintegration and desperation among some highland communities in the subregion. There is also a need to re-examine political, socio-economic, historical and cultural factors within a broad development context.

26. The United Nations Centre For Human Settlements (Habitat) reported that, in pursuance of its general mandate and in recognition of its responsibilities as task-manager of the human settlements programme of Agenda 21, it had embarked upon programmes to identify human settlements needs and concerns specific to indigenous people in order to advise effectively Governments and indigenous communities on the policies and strategies for improved living conditions. The programmes are largely based on capacity-building and policy advice in such critical areas as land registration and use, as well as basic infrastructure provision and maintenance.

27. Habitat will publish a strategy document focusing especially on the land and basic services requirements of indigenous people. The document, which will be circulated world-wide, is intended to be a major contribution by Habitat to the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, as well as serve as a policy blueprint to guide its future work in this area. The first draft of the document is currently under review and it is intended that it should eventually be reviewed by institutions and organizations of indigenous people prior to its publication.

28. In response to General Assembly resolution 49/214, Habitat will intensify its efforts to urge concerned Governments to involve indigenous people in national preparatory activities leading to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). Concerned Governments will be urged to include indigenous people in their respective national Habitat II committees so that their views may be represented in the global plan of action expected to emerge from the Conference. At the Technical Meeting of the Decade held in July 1994, Habitat suggested that specific years during the Decade might be devoted to various activities. For example, it might be possible to devote 1996, the year in which the Habitat II Conference will be held, to issues pertaining to the promotion of shelter and related infrastructure and also to hold the meeting on land rights and claims which was also proposed at the Technical Meeting.

29. The United Nations University does not at present have any academic programmes with indigenous peoples, but is interested in including activities in support of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

IV. COMMENTS FROM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

30. The following specialized agencies submitted information: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank.

31. The International Labour Organization (ILO) reported that Convention No. 169 has now been ratified by eight countries, with the ratification by Honduras on 28 March 1995. Denmark is expected to notify ILO of its ratification shortly. According to recent information, the Parliament of the Netherlands has approved ratification, with a view to orienting its foreign assistance programme. Other countries are at a fairly advanced stage of consideration.

32. Even though the Convention has so far been ratified by only a few countries, it has a disproportionately strong influence in practice. In November 1994, ILO again convened an inter-agency meeting to coordinate technical work among all the concerned United Nations organizations on indigenous peoples. Also present were representatives of the European Parliament, the Inter-American Development Bank and several donor countries. This has resulted in a better understanding of the different programmes, for which there is no other formal coordination mechanism. It is generally agreed that ILO Convention No. 169 is the reference text for all such action.

33. ILO was requested by the State Duma of the Russian Federation to undertake a mission to advise the Government on the possibilities of adopting legislation for the indigenous peoples of the country. This mission was carried out in May 1994. It was followed by a further invitation to testify before the Duma (November 1994) on the desirability of ratifying the Convention. As a result, ILO is assisting in preparations for a meeting to be convened by the Russian Ministry of Nationalities in September 1995, to gather international assistance for the indigenous and tribal peoples of the country.

34. The United Nations sought the help of ILO on the component of the Guatemalan peace plan entitled "Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples", and an agreement has been established which envisages a number of measures for the special protection of and assistance to the indigenous peoples of Guatemala. An interregional project covering several countries, financed by the Danish Government, has just been launched by ILO to promote indigenous rights and combat poverty among indigenous peoples. The project covers: training of indigenous organizations and of NGOs, judges and lawyers on indigenous or tribal rights under national legislation and international standards; land and resource rights; support for revising regulations; and the development of service programmes (credit extension, marketing and management). ILO carried out a mission to the Philippines in May 1995 to set up training and other programmes.

35. In the context of a programme carried out in cooperation with UNDP, ILO began in January 1994 to provide in-service training to indigenous legal promoters on present legislation on land, territory and resource use in the Bolivian lowlands. This is one of the components of a major UNDP-sponsored national indigenous programme. ILO also administers an interregional programme to support self-reliance of indigenous and tribal communities through co-operatives and other self-help organizations (INDISCO). Since early 1993 this programme, now operating in India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka with financial support from the Government of Denmark, is contributing to the establishment and consolidation of indigenous networks at the national and regional levels to encourage the exchange of ideas and expertise. It also seeks to assist indigenous communities or organizations in the design of locally managed development efforts and in the identification of possible donors. In addition, it aims at encouraging the creation of indigenous cooperatives or other forms of associations which are suited to local conditions and cultural patterns of indigenous and tribal peoples.

36. As a contribution to the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, a booklet outlining ILO's policies, programmes and means of action for indigenous and tribal peoples has been prepared. ILO is responsible for the only two international conventions so far adopted concerning the rights of these peoples. The first, the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No. 107), was ratified by 27 countries. While it has a strong protective element, its provisions are now considered outdated, as it takes a rather integrationist approach. Nevertheless, it remains in effect for 22 countries and is often the only element of international protection available. ILO Convention No. 107 was revised by the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), which has now been ratified by eight countries. The latter Convention takes the point of view of respect for the right of indigenous and tribal peoples to determine the course of their lives, and requires ratifying countries to respect indigenous cultures and ways of life. ILO has a highly developed supervisory mechanism for countries which have ratified its conventions. Each year, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations examines the situation of some of the countries that have ratified each Convention, including Convention Nos. 107 and 169. The interval between the examination of a particular country can be as much as five years, but is usually shorter. The Committee met most recently in February-March 1995 and its report appeared in April 1995 (in English, French and Spanish). The Committee's next session will be in November-December 1995.

37. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has a number of projects affecting indigenous people. FAO administers a fisheries programme for small island developing States that will cover six areas: institutional strengthening and national capacity-building, especially with respect to human resources development, enhanced conservation and management of fisheries with particular emphasis on sustainable development; fisheries management planning, technical development and in-shore fishery management; improved post-harvest management and marketing with a view to ensuring that best use is made of resources and that post-harvest losses are minimized; safety at sea; strengthening the economic role of national fisheries industries and the privatization of fisheries investments; and aquaculture and inland fisheries conservation, management and food security for indigenous people.

38. This programme, which is currently being elaborated, will have considerable benefits for indigenous populations, particularly in the South Pacific, West Africa and the Indian Ocean, and represents an FAO initiative in support of sustainable resource management and food security for indigenous people. Furthermore, activities planned within the framework of implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing may be formulated in such a way that it would give special attention to indigenous people's rights, particularly fishing rights, in terms of traditional users' rights and community-based management or co-management.

39. In spite of the financial constraints faced by the organization, FAO has been pursuing limited but significant activities in indigenous areas and with indigenous people. Following are some highlights of 1995 activities. A study was started in Ecuador to assess the impact of structural adjustment on communal organization in indigenous areas, to determine indigenous populations' access to land and the labour market and to promote the institutional mechanisms that permit equal access to them. FAO agreed to fund a project in the Philippines, under its Technical Cooperation Programme, to support agrarian reform activities for indigenous groups. The project, which has just started, aims at strengthening the capability of indigenous communities to elaborate their own community plans, at designing improved legal and institutional mechanisms for recognition of community-based tenure systems, and at formulating investment proposals in a participatory manner.

40. FAO's Community Forestry Unit, while not concentrating specifically on the question of indigenous people, is undertaking several activities which encompass, among other things, the interests of these groups. In particular, under its Forests, Trees and People Programme, the Unit has, over the last year, initiated or continued several relevant activities. It has conducted case-studies leading to a concept paper on conflict management of forest and tree resources. These case-studies often concern indigenous forest-dwelling groups in tropical regions of Latin America, Indonesia, Thailand and other countries. It has prepared a concept paper (in press) on integration of wildlife use and management into community forestry activities. Many of the examples of traditional management of wildlife populations for food or income come from indigenous people in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Projects in this area include the preparation of a case-study on forest regeneration through indigenous management practices of the hill tribes of northern Thailand. It has undertaken various activities concerning the reconsideration of the value of

local knowledge systems and management practices, such as works-in-progress on farmer-initiated research and extension, the legal bases (including traditional law) for the management of forests as common property, and the re-examination of shifting cultivation as an indigenous system of resource management.

41. FAO continued in 1995 to promote participatory research and information exchange on indigenous systems of pastoral resources management including assistance given to PRASET (Projet régional d'appui au secteur de l'élevage transhumain) to conduct workshops with the participation of researchers and pastoralists in the Sahel to elaborate a strategy proposal in view of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and formulate action platforms by pastoral populations on land tenure, and access to common resources management. Pastoral women were encouraged and actually formed special working groups on gender issues in the pastoral mode of production and on economic issues. A project was approved by FAO, under its Technical Cooperation Programme, to identify appropriate strategies for poverty alleviation and strengthening local institutions in the Arhangai province of Mongolia using Participatory Rural Appraisal with pastoral communities to assess and support sustainable institutional mechanisms and indigenous forms of association to replace now defunct pastoral collectives.

42. The Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted decision 146 EX/7.1.3 at its 146th session held from 16 May to 4 June 1995. In the decision, the Director-General is requested: (a) to encourage international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people within UNESCO's fields of competence with a view to developing their endogenous capacities; and (b) to promote and support activities carried out by the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, coordinated by the Centre for Human Rights, and to work with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, such as the Fund for the Development of Indigenous People in Latin America and the Caribbean (La Paz), to ensure that the Decade makes a positive contribution to a culture of peace and tolerance.

43. UNESCO will enhance indigenous capabilities in key areas of their development. It therefore intends to implement projects in the areas of bilingual education (through the LINGUAPAX programme), contemporary indigenous literature (through setting up regional workshops), and safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Special reference will be made to the preservation of oral tradition and traditional knowledge in the areas of environmental protection, conservation of phytogenic resources and promotion of crafts. Furthermore, within the framework of programmes and activities in the field of education for human rights, democracy and peace, UNESCO will continue its action on behalf of indigenous people under the programme of action for the Decade, with special emphasis on training.

44. The 48th World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization adopted resolution 48.24 of 12 May 1995 on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, drew attention to the its objective of "Health for all by the year 2000" and confirmed its earlier resolution 47.27 of May 1994 on the participation of WHO in the planning and implementation of the Decade's objectives. The Assembly requested the Director-General to report to the 49th

Assembly on the implementation of WHA resolution 47.27, including measures taken at the regional level, and invited member States to designate focal points for indigenous health issues.

45. The World Bank reported that its policy towards indigenous peoples dates back to 1982 and was initially designed to address issues pertaining to relatively isolated and unacculturated tribal groups. It focused mainly on the protection of land rights and the provision of health services, particularly in relation to forest-dwelling indigenous groups who were being affected by Bank-financed projects in lowland South America. In 1991, the Bank issued a revised policy (Operational Directive 4.20), which extends the definition of indigenous peoples to include a much wider array of groups who maintain social and cultural identities distinct from those of the national societies in which they live, who have close attachments to their ancestral lands, and who are susceptible to being disadvantaged in the development process. The revised policy, while maintaining the protective measures of the earlier directive, focuses particular attention on the rights of indigenous peoples, if they so choose, to participate in and benefit from development projects. Special procedures are outlined in the directive for incorporating indigenous peoples' concerns into Bank-financed investment projects through the design of indigenous peoples development plans.

46. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, a number of recently prepared natural resource management projects contain special indigenous land components which take into account the legal and other provisions of OD 4.20. These include natural resource management projects in Rondonia and Mato Grosso, Brazil and in Paraguay and Colombia. The indigenous lands project (currently being negotiated) is specifically designed to address issues of indigenous land demarcation and protection. It is part of the pilot programme to protect the Brazilian rainforest. The Environment Unit in the Technical Department of the Latin America and Caribbean Region (LATEN), in collaboration with the Hemispheric Indigenous Peoples Fund and using Institutional Development Fund (IDF) grants, has launched a series of training workshops for Latin American indigenous organizations to assist them in designing and managing their own development strategies. These have been implemented in Bolivia, Chile and Mexico. IDF grants have also been awarded to Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, Nicaragua and Ecuador specifically to assist in the development and capacity-building of local indigenous people's organizations in the design and management of self-development projects. Training workshops and seminars have been conducted on preparing development strategies, administrative procedures, and monitoring and evaluation procedures.

47. The Bank is currently preparing its first stand-alone indigenous peoples project in Ecuador, in cooperation with the new Secretary of Indigenous Affairs and regional and national indigenous organizations. In Bolivia and Nicaragua, project preparation is nearly completed for a rural water and sanitation project where ethnicity, gender and indigenous culture are intrinsic parts of project design. The communities' views and cultural preferences have been incorporated through local community consultation and participation and women will be trained in the process of planning, implementing and managing sanitation, hygiene and water services.

48. In the Asian and Pacific region, much of the work has focused on improving the performance of the Bank and its Borrowers in the critical area of resettlement planning and in incorporating the concerns of indigenous peoples and other ethnic and cultural minorities into forestry management and conservation projects. In the relatively new area of education for indigenous peoples, the Bank-funded Vet Am Primary Education Project is also noteworthy for its emphasis on mother-tongue literacy for indigenous children. The Asia Technical Department's Social Unit has recently initiated an exercise which will result in the production of a set of country-level profiles of indigenous peoples and other cultural minorities, and regional guidelines for implementing OD 4.20. An innovative mapping project on vulnerable indigenous groups in Indonesia is also being carried out by the Social Unit in the Bank's Resident Mission in Jakarta. The Asia Technical Department's Environmental Unit has launched a study on the role of Asian systems of knowledge and biodiversity conservation.

49. Focus in the African region has been on generating greater awareness of the role which indigenous African knowledge systems and institutions can play in the development process. The Bank's Africa Management 90 group has just completed a report on the subject, and the Southern Africa Agriculture Department is co-sponsoring a set of NGO workshops on the role of indigenous knowledge systems in natural resource management. A training workshop on indigenous knowledge systems and institutions in Africa was recently organized for regional Bank staff.

50. In the Middle East and North African region, the first Bank-financed project directed at an indigenous population, the Matruh Natural Resource Management Project in Egypt, is now under implementation. The project draws heavily upon the land-use knowledge and participation of the Bedouin people (including Bedouin women) and promises to provide important lessons for natural resource management and rural development planning in other arid areas of the Middle East and North Africa.

51. In the European and Central Asian region, the Russian Federation Petroleum Joint Venture Development Project, now under preparation, contains an environmental impact assessment which will include the design of a special indigenous peoples development plan for indigenous and other local populations affected by this new development in Western Siberia. Indigenous peoples' concerns have also been included in a recent Russian Federation forest policy review and biodiversity conservation project.

52. A growing amount of research and sector work is also taking place in the Bank which applies to indigenous peoples and other ethnic and minority groups. A major focus of this work is in the areas of education and poverty alleviation and directed by the Bank's Education and Social Policy Department. The Environment Department's Social Policy and Resettlement Division is also involved in research and sector work concerning indigenous peoples, especially as it relates to popular participation, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. In 1992, as part of its participation in the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, the Small Grants Program committed itself to supporting small initiatives on development-related issues proposed by and of interest to indigenous organizations, especially in

developing countries. It has since sponsored several activities of this type, many of them proposed and executed by indigenous organizations. The Bank intends to continue to give priority to these types of activities during the Decade and will be actively soliciting proposals.

V. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

53. In May 1995, the first General Assembly of the Development Fund for Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Bolivia. The General Assembly of the Fund elected its first Advisory Board which included non-governmental indigenous representatives from Colombia, Honduras and Paraguay and government representatives from Bolivia, El Salvador and Mexico, and elected Spain as an extra-regional member State representative, in accordance with the Fund Agreement.

VI. COMMENTS FROM INDIGENOUS AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

54. The following indigenous and non-governmental organizations provided information about the Decade: Comisión Jurídica para el Autodesarrollo de los Pueblos Originarios Andinos, Visión Huichola de México, Coordinadora Cakchiquel de Desarrollo Integral, Asociación Nacional Indígena Salvadoreña, Parlamento Indígena de América, Centro Cultural WIPHALA de Bolivia, Pacific Asia Council of Indigenous Peoples, Sengwer Cherangany Cultural Group-Kenya, West Papuan Indigenous Peoples, Nepal Indigenous Peoples Development Information Service Centre, International Indian Treaty Council, Comisión Jurídica de los Pueblos de Integración Tawantinsuyana, URI-MARKA de Conacín, Helsinki University, Association of Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation, Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Centro di Documentazione delle Etnie. The organizations drew attention to the areas itemized below.

Training and education

55. In this field, emphasis was placed on the need to hold courses, forums, workshops, seminars and meetings at the national and international levels on international human rights law for indigenous people, involving indigenous professional personnel and leaders, as well as the establishment of comprehensive national education policies with a view to safeguarding respect for the distinctive values of indigenous people.

Economic rights, territorial rights and land

56. Mention was made of the importance of holding meetings of experts in the field of economy, territories and land; the subjects discussed should include land recovery plans, boundary agreements to overcome the division of indigenous people and allow freedom of transit and communication, promotion of bank loans for productive projects, market research for agricultural, handicraft and other products, protection of natural resources and the restructuring of traditional economic models, with an adequate transfer of technology that respects the

indigenous technology, as well as programmes to eradicate the evils caused by drug trafficking and terrorism.

Publication and dissemination of information

57. Attention was drawn to the value of promoting publications on human rights, indigenous rights, culture, celebration of the International Day of Indigenous People and knowledge of indigenous people, including intellectual property rights, and the establishment of periodicals and reviews which help to publicize progress and achievements in the fields concerned and then become means of training indigenous people, including the preparation and publication of practical guides to the protection and promotion of human rights for indigenous people.

58. In regard to information, mention was made of the need for a database, organized by the United Nations and accessible both to Governments and to organizations and individuals concerned with indigenous people, and for the creation of information networks at the local and regional levels in order to ensure speedy communication, in particular in connection with reporting violations of indigenous rights, through the Internet.

59. It is suggested that censuses should be taken of indigenous people, with the participation of governmental bodies specializing in this field, as a means of supporting economic and social development projects for indigenous people.

National and international legislation

60. It is proposed in this connection that constitutional and legislative reforms should be encouraged that would create mechanisms for the implementation of development programmes and projects that fully respect both the indigenous and non-indigenous sectors of the population. In regard to America, it is proposed that an instrument of legal protection should be formulated that would ensure the defence of the rights of indigenous people. At the international level, it is recommended that International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 should be ratified by all countries. In addition, the Commission on Human Rights is urged to support the contents of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. It is suggested that in the near future the United Nations should promote the relevant mechanisms for the proclamation of an international convention on indigenous peoples.

Cultural development

61. In this respect, mention was made of the need to implement programmes and projects which revitalize and promote indigenous culture through festivals and through enhancement of the traditions and languages of indigenous people. Programmes should be implemented to educate indigenous children and young people in their own culture.

Health

62. Importance was attached to this area, especially as regards the recognition of traditional medicine and its links with modern medicine. Mention is made in

this regard of the need for the latter to be adapted to the circumstances of indigenous people. It is suggested that a technical meeting should be held in the field of indigenous health (traditional and non-traditional medicine).

Environment and ecology

63. In regard to the environment, it is suggested that specific policies and programmes should be implemented, and that a unit dealing with biodiversity and development of indigenous people should be created in UNDP. Chapter 26 of Agenda 21 should be implemented.

Financing

64. All the organizations referred to the strengthening of the Voluntary Fund for the Decade and the financing of development projects as essential requirements for the implementation of plans and projects for the Decade. For the Decade to be successful, it is considered important that United Nations specialized agencies which have their own programmes in consultation with indigenous people should maintain permanent contact with the Coordinator for the Decade in order to ensure the successful outcome of all action undertaken for the benefit of indigenous people. In addition, it is recommended that Governments should be invited to undertake programmes of action in collaboration with indigenous people, to share the resulting information with the Coordinator's office and to make such information available to other Governments and to indigenous people.

VII. VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE

65. In early 1995, the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was opened. The Fund is included in the Pledging Conference for Development Activities for the year.